

## REMARKS

The specification, abstract and claims have been amended to overcome the outstanding rejections. Withdrawal is requested.

The claims have been amended to overcome the outstanding § 112 rejections, without narrowing the scope of the claims. Claims 2 and 3 have been incorporated into claim 1, to better avoid the cited reference.

Claims 1 and 4-5 stand rejected under § 102 on the basis of Manabe '501, and claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under § 103 on the basis of Manabe '501 as well. Applicant traverses this rejection because Manabe does not disclose or suggest a design which would produce the results of the present invention, i.e., considerable road noise suppression and weight reduction.

In order merely to attain a weight reduction, Manabe proposes to define the average rim thickness to be smaller in equal sections closer to the flange side of the wheel. It does not disclose or suggest the requirements according to the present invention that the disc side equal section average rim thickness be 3.5 mm - 8mm, the flange side equal section average rim thickness be 2.5 mm - 3 mm and the difference between the average rim thickness of the adjacent equal sections be 0.5 mm - 5mm.

Thus, Manabe cannot be expected to bring about the surprising and unexpected results of both considerable road noise suppression and weight reduction that can be attained by the present invention, as shown by the results of present Invention Wheels 3, 4 in Table 1

in the Example in the present specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant believes that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicant's attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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